

REMARKS

The above amendments and the following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated September 7, 2004. Claims 8-11 are pending in this application. Claims 12-18 were previously cancelled. By this Amendment, claims 1-7 and 19-37 have been cancelled and claims 8-10 have been amended. In the outstanding Office Action, claim 23 was objected to; claims 1-5, 19-29, 34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b); and claims 6, 7, 30-33, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 8-11 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. No new matter has been added. Claims 8-11 are presented for consideration.

Claim Objection

Claim 23 was objected to due to the informality identified in the Office Action. The cancellation of this claim renders this objection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5, 19-29, 34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6, 7, 30-33, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-11 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 8-10 have been amended to place these claims in independent form. Claim 11 depends from claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 8-11.

Conclusion

Applicants' amendments and remarks have overcome the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action dated September 7, 2004. Specifically, the cancellation of claims 1-7 and 19-37 renders moot the objection to claim 23 and the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 8-11 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The amendment of claims 8-10, to place these claims in independent form, overcomes the objection to claims 8-11. Accordingly, claims 8-11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 8-11.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to attorney docket number 108075-00022.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time
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